

roads. We have done this by an act of justice—by an act requiring her people to bear the burdens of government in proportion to their strength.

From a low rate of taxation, property will come here to engage in enterprise and development. This General Assembly can say that from fear we did not, like the servant of old, hide the talents in a napkin and bring it back unincreased to a hard master, but that it improved its trust for the welfare of all the people and for the progress of the State.

I feel sure that this General Assembly will rightly solve this question in the exercise of its patriotism and wisdom.

LOCKE CRAIG, *Governor*.

Raleigh, North Carolina, March 6, 1913.

*To the General Assembly of North Carolina:*

The Panama Canal will be completed during the present year. A world exposition celebrating this event will be held in San Francisco in the year 1915. This General Assembly must decide as to whether North Carolina shall be represented.

The construction of the Panama Canal is the greatest accomplishment of the human race in ancient or modern times. It surpasses any of the monuments of ancient civilization and in magnitude is far ahead of the Suez Canal, or any undertaking by any of the countries of Europe or Asia. This cleaving asunder of the two continents of the Western Hemisphere and uniting the two oceans that bear the commerce of the world, will change the markets of the world and the centers of the world's traffic. It will make the seacoast cities of the South the gateways for the commerce of the United States. It will be of untold advantage to the South. The exposition in San Francisco that will celebrate this great accomplishment has been hitherto unequalled in all the earth. The countries and the republics of Europe and Asia will have their exhibits, and every State in the American Union, in Central America and in South America will be represented. If North Carolina be represented at all she ought to be creditably represented. Thousands of North Carolinians will visit this exposition. They will take advantage of the transportation rates across the continent, and see the greatest fair that has ever been held. There is one feature of this celebration that appeals especially to North Carolinians. There will be a parade of all the navies of the earth, the greatest in all history. A North Carolina man, Josephus Daniels, Secretary of the Navy, will head that parade in a battleship flying the flag of the Republic. I would regret that North Carolina should not be represented at this great festival, celebrating as it will the greatest event in the development of the South.

I have visited several of the world exhibitions, and to my regret North Carolina has not properly shown her strength and her resources. On the 4th of March I witnessed the procession celebrating the inauguration of a Democratic President. I saw in this procession the States of the Union. Immediately in front of North Carolina were the States of Pennsylvania, New Jersey, Virginia, and New York; each had thousands of the national guard well equipped. The men that North Carolina sent made a most creditable showing, but in numbers they were conspicuously few. There was a consoling thought that welled in the heart of every North Carolinian that in the days when she has been called upon for men of action and daring she